Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR
Bacolod City

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 23
Series of 2020

AN ORDER STRONGLY DISCOURAGING THE ACTS OF HANDSHAKING, "PAGMAMANO", HUGGING, KISSING ON THE CHEEKS OR "BESO-BESO", AND OTHER FORMS OF GREETINGS INVOLVING PHYSICAL CONTACT

WHEREAS, Section 16 of the Local Government Code states that every local government unit shall exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom, as well as powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare;

WHEREAS, the Department of Health (DOH) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) confirmed on March 7, 2020 the first local transmission of Covid-19 in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, on March 8, 2020, President Rodrigo R. Duterte issued Proclamation No. 922, declaring a State of Public Health Emergency throughout the Philippines;

WHEREAS, the WHO has declared COVID-19 as a pandemic on March 11, 2020;

WHEREAS, the City Government of Bacolod declared a state of General Community Quarantine on March 15, 2020 in order to further protect its citizens;

WHEREAS, the current situation calls for the employment of all means necessary to combat the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the DOH had advised "social distancing" as a primary precautionary measure to stop or slow down the spread of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, it has long been a part of Filipino culture to greet each other, particularly the elders, in a manner which involves physical contact, a common example of which is the practice of "beso-beso" and "pagmamano";

WHEREAS, every Bacolodnon should do his part in preventing the spread of the dreaded virus, even in the most basic means, by practicing social distancing;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, EVELIO R. LEONARDIA, by virtue of the power vested in me as City Mayor of Bacolod, do hereby order that handshaking, "pagmamano", hugging, kissing on the cheeks or "beso-beso", and other forms of greeting involving physical contact shall be strongly discouraged to further promote social distancing. Instead, Bacolodnons are encouraged to live up to that cultural distinction of being citizens of the "City of Smiles" and to behave accordingly on that basis without need of physical contact to greet one another.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until our City has been declared by the Department of Health as free of the threat of COVID-19 contagion.

Done in the City of Bacolod this 17th day of March 2020.

ATTY. EVELIO R. LEONARDIA
City Mayor